

Jolene Kinsland

Takotna, AK

I am writing to provide comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. We need help! E-Rate has been very important to my school district (Iditarod Area School District) because it has helped my students gain access to a wealth of online resources, communicate and collaborate, and develop the 21st century skills necessary for college and career. I have four students in high school. Because mine is a one-teacher school, the high school students take all but one of their classes by VTC, online distance (a state course), and Vidyo. However, E-Rate funding levels have not kept pace with our bandwidth needs. We max out everyday, especially when we have three middle school students on VTC using their iPads, two students on Vidyo with a teacher on the other side of the district, and two students using their computers for their online Biology class. I spoke to the Internet Service Provider one day, because the Internet was so very slow, and she said that it was because our bandwidth was maxed out – not one more computer could access the Internet. As the government demands more and more that students have highly qualified teachers, small schools have to use teaching through the Internet to be able to comply. So that this can happen, I urge you to raise the E-Rate funding level to at least \$5 billion per year, which is close to the average demand level for each of the past two years.